

DIRECT PAY: FREE, FAST, EFFORTLESS

FOR YOUR convenience, the City of Morgan Hill is offering Direct Pay via electronic deduction from a checking account for payment of your water bill. As long as you maintain adequate funds in the account there are:

- NO fees for Direct Pay services
- NO check writing and mailing chores
- NO late payment penalties
- NO more lost payments or checks

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR DIRECT PAY?

The City currently has over 700 customers using Direct Pay. All residential and commercial water customers billed by the City of Morgan Hill are eligible for Direct Pay. Your account must be current and not subject to other existing payment arrangements.

WHEN DOES DIRECT PAY START?

Approximately 30 days after receipt of the enrollment form.

How does it work?

You will continue to receive your monthly water and sewer bill. "Direct Pay - Do Not Send Payment" will be printed on the bill, letting you know that Direct Pay is active. Review your bill carefully, and call the City immediately if you have any questions about your bill. Approximately five days before the "due date," the amount shown on the bill will be automatically paid from your checking account. Your checking account statement from your bank or financial institution will clearly identify the charges.

SEE "DIRECT PAY", PAGE 2

DECISION TIME FOR NEW LIBRARY

ORIGINALLY BUILT in 1973, the existing Morgan Hill Library is woefully inadequate to meet the needs of the greater Morgan Hill Community today. The City is currently evaluating where a new library should be sited and how it should be financed. The two sites under consideration include an area directly to the west of City Hall and the "Sunsweet Site" in Downtown between 3rd and 4th Streets.

Specific proposals for both of these sites are now being developed. The Morgan Hill Library Commission will be evaluating these concepts at its April 12th meeting at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. This meeting will be televised on Cable Channel 17. In addition, the May City Visions will include an insert about our library options and provide readers with a chance to share their opinion.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- WATER SURCHARGE NEWS
- AVOID WEST NILE VIRUS
- CITY BEAUTIFICATION DAY DETAILS
- PLANNING A SMALL BUILDING PROJECT?
- SIGN UP FOR WATER FUN AT OUR NEW AQUATICS CENTER
- RECYCLE DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN



FAMILY SUPPORT: Youth have a family life that provides high levels of love and support.

The children in your family are our community's greatest resource. Cherish your family's time together and make a point of demonstrating your love each and every day.

ASSET OF THE MONTH

"DIRECT PAY", FROM PAGE 1

How do I close my water and sewer account?

Notify the City immediately and your final closing bill will be sent directly for payment rather than being deducted through Direct Pay.

How can I cancel Direct Pay?

You may cancel your participation at any time by calling the City of Morgan Hill at 779-7221. Termination will become effective ten business days after receipt of your notification.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHANGE BANKS?

Call the Finance Department at 779-7221 and ask for a new Direct Pay application. Inaccurate information may result in payments being refused by your financial institution. The City will not be responsible for delays or losses that result from inaccurate information or failure to provide the City with timely notification of changes.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE EVENT OF A REJECTED PAYMENT?

Payments may be rejected by your financial institution because of insufficient funds, closed accounts or other reasons. Check with your financial institution for possible fees it may impose. If your payment is rejected, the City of Morgan Hill will impose an \$18 returned item charge on your next water and sewer bill. The City reserves the right to terminate your participation in Direct Pay if your payment is rejected more than once within a 12 month period.

WHY IS DIRECT PAY BETTER THAN ONLINE CHECKING PROGRAMS?

NO LATE FEES. With online checking programs, the website company physically mails the City a check after you authorize the payment. Through this method your payment may arrive late because (1) you forgot to pay on time, (2) the online checking company had technical problems which delayed printing of your check, or (3) the postal service lost or delayed the delivery of your check to the City. On average, it takes five days for the City to receive an online check. The City is not responsible for any delays and must impose a late fee on your account. Direct Pay customers will not be charged late fees — unless they had a returned check.

CONVENIENCE. All you have to do is review your bill every month. The City will be responsible for processing your payment. When it's time to close your account, calculating and paying for your final payment is a one-step process in Direct Pay. With online payment programs, you must first contact the City to determine your final amount, and then go online to make your payment.

How do I get started?

To begin Direct Pay, call the Finance Department at 779-7221 and ask for a Direct Pay application form. Complete and return it with your current payment. When the application is processed, you will receive a confirmation letter stating that Direct Pay service will begin with your next water and sewer bill.

PERCHLORATE SURCHARGE IMPOSED

AS RESIDENTS know, the City has incurred many additional costs during the past year to address the presence of perchlorate in the South Valley's aquifer. While the water supplied by the City remains in full compliance with all State and Federal safety standards, the Council has directed staff to take several additional measures to protect our water supply. The City is expected to spend \$1.4 million on drilling wells, building perchlorate plants, removing nitrates, and monitoring perchlorate in the water supply by the end of June 2004 and a total of \$3.2 million on perchlorate-related costs by June 2007.

These significant costs have threatened the financial stability of the City's water fund. In order to address this potential shortfall, the City has adopted a series of 5% surcharges on water fees. The 5% surcharge is needed solely to pay for the City's perchlorate-related costs. Perchlorate surcharge revenues will be accounted for separately and spent only on perchlorate-related costs.

The first 5% surcharge goes into effect April 1, 2004, with additional 5% surcharges effective January 1, of 2005, 2006, and 2007. The surcharge rate will be applied to customer billings for those billing periods beginning on or after each effective date. The need for future surcharges will be evaluated annually. Any amount determined to be in excess of the amount needed shall be refunded to customers through future across-the-board percentage rate reductions and the elimination of any surcharge in effect at that time.

Article By Tina Reza, Assistant Director of Finance, 779-7221 or rezat@morgan-bill.ca.gov

PERMITS FOR SMALL PROJECTS

THE OBJECTIVE of the Building Division is to protect the health and safety of Morgan Hill residents. Even simple projects like adding an electrical outlet, installing a new light fixture, or making a simple plumbing change can be life-threatening and cause costly damage to your home or business if done improperly. Because of this, getting a permit for even the smallest project is important. The Building Division is constantly working hard to make it easier for residents, business owners and contractors to get permits approved over the counter whenever possible.

Some permits that can normally be obtained over the counter include plumbing, electrical, mechanical, reroofs, window change outs, pools, spas, sheds and other accessory structures as well as some home remodels and some simple interior improvements to commercial buildings. In an effort to expedite the process of approval for these smaller projects, Public Works, Planning, and Building staff are available in the Building Division to assist on plan approvals. If staff members are not immediately available due to meetings, lunch schedules, or other unforeseen circumstances, these projects will be reviewed within a 24 hour period. In addition, fax permit applications can be submitted for projects such as reroofs, new or replacement water heaters, furnaces and A/C units, just to name a few. Preprinted standard specifications for simple chimney repairs and water heater installations are available for applicants to either include as part of their submittal, or just for information on the latest code requirements.

If you are interested in any of these means of application or have other questions, please contact the Building Division at 779-7241.

Article By Mary Anne Kendall, 779-7241 or makendall@morgan-bill.ca.gov

4th Annual Art Ala Carte Is Around The World

THE 4TH annual Art ala Carte will be held on Saturday May 15th at the Morgan Hill Community and Cultural Center from 11 am to 3 pm. Art ala Carte is a fun and interactive day of art projects and activities for children from infants to 10 years old. This year's theme, Art Around the World, will feature art projects from countries and cultures around the globe. The Morgan Hill Police Department will hold its Children's Safety Fair and Bike Rodeo at the event. The event is free to the public and is sponsored by the City of Morgan Hill, FIRST5 Santa Clara County and the Morgan Hill Police Department. So mark your calendar and come down and join the fun on May 15th.

Community and Cultural Center Wins Statewide Award

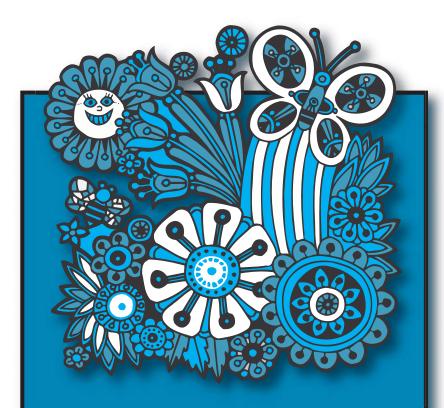
THE COMMUNITY and Cultural Center has received the prestigious "Award of Excellence" from the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) for Facility Design for cities with a population between 20,000

and 50,000. Recreation Manager Julie Spier stated, "We were thrilled to receive this award. This is a real acknowledgment of the vision and investment of the Morgan Hill Community." The award is based not only on the design of the facility, but also on the community design and planning process which guided the site selection and layout of the facility. As Morgan Hill's first public facility dedicated to "advancing the social and cultural well being of our community," the Community and Cultural Center was recognized by the CPRS because it has transformed a blighted corner of downtown into a true community hub for recreational, educational and cultural activities. The community playhouse, amphitheater, children's pavilion and unique partnership with Gavilan College are features which distinguished the Community and Cultural Center from the rest of the competition. Since the Community and Cultural Center opened its doors in December 2002, enrollment in recreation and leisure classes has increased by 300% and nearly 20 city-wide events have been held at the Center.



The award was presented to the City at the annual CPRS conference in Anaheim on March 12. Mayor Pro Tem Greg Sellers and Community Development Director David Bischoff accepted the award on behalf of the City. "We are aware of the tremendous impact the Community and Cultural Center has had on the community in the year we've been open," said Spier. She added, "now the rest of the state will see how a city and community can work together to turn a vision into a reality."

Article by Margarita Balagso, 779-7247 or balagsom@morgan-bill.ca.gov



Are you looking for a fun way to spend a Saturday morning?

Would you like to see a more beautiful Morgan Hill?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CIVIC IMPROVEMENT?

May 15th 2004
City Beautification Day



If you answered yes, then City Beautification Day is for you!

City Beautification Day is an opportunity to engage in projects throughout the City that enhance the community's appearance. Join us on Saturday, May 15th at 7:30AM at City Hall located at 17555 Peak Avenue. Volunteers are invited to celebrate with a barbecue at Community Park at 12:00 noon. To learn more, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247.

City Beautification Day Projects Civic Center

- 1. Construct Concrete Pad For Picnic Table
- 2. Replace Bench Seat And Back Boards
- 3. Place Redwood Chips In Planters
- 4. Trim Shrubs

GALVAN PARK

- 1. Remove Wooden Benches And Help Install New Picnic Tables
- 2. Add Wood Chips To Play Equipment Area

JACKSON PARK

- 1. Add Wood Chips To Play Equipment Area
- 2. Installing Landscaping Pavers In Curbside Planter Strip

OAK CREEK PARK

1. Add Wood Chips To Play Equipment Area

COMMUNITY PARK

- 1. Add Wood Chips To Play Equipment Area
- 2. Paint Pump House And Backstops
- 3. Trim Ivy Shrubs Along Entrance Fence

STREET DIVISION PROJECTS

LITTER PICK-UP

- 1. Butterfield Channel
- 2. Depot Avenue
- 3. Main And Hale
- 4. Monterey Road
- 5. Rail Road
- 6. Other Roads

Cool Kids Summer Day Camp

HEY! ALL YOU COOL KIDS, GET REALLY COOL BY ATTENDING THE COOLEST SUMMER DAY CAMP IN MORGAN HILL.

COME SPLISH AND SPLASH AT the new Aquatics Center and enjoy the water feature at the air-conditioned Community Center with the coolest Recreation Leaders in town.

The Morgan Hill Recreation Division's Cool Kids Summer Day Camp will provide lots of cool things such as: fun indoor & outdoor games, relays, nature studies, arts and crafts, music/singing, intro to Spanish, team-building activities, swimming and pool adventures, field trips, and much more!

BRING a towel, proper swim attire, water shoes, sunscreen, a sack lunch & water/drinks.

PRICE INCLUDES a morning and afternoon snack, a tee shirt, extended care, transportation & admission fee for all the field trips.

TIME 7:30AM - 6:00PM (Day camp hours: 9AM - 4PM, Extended care hours: 7:30AM - 9AM and 4PM to 6PM-all available at no extra charge!

AQUATICS CENTER

16200 Condit Road • Mondays and Wednesdays

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER

17000 Monterey Road • Tuesday and Thursday

FIELD TRIPS are on Fridays, call for location at 782-0008.

AGES 5-12

FEE \$180 per week for Morgan Hill Residents and \$187 per week for nonresidents.



Park & Sports Field Reservations Fill Up Fast

IF YOU are thinking about having an event at a City park or sports field, you may want to plan ahead. Parks are reserved on a first come, first served basis and weekend reservations fill up fast. To reserve a City park or sports field, request and complete a reservation form at least ten days prior to the event. There is a \$17 processing fee per reservation. A list of parks and the reservation form are available at the

Community and Cultural Center and on the City's website at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov.

If you want to reserve a park and you expect fifty or more people to attend, have entertainment or alcohol, sell food, or charge an entry fee, a Special Events application will need to be completed no later than 60 days before the date of the event. There is a \$125 processing fee for these large event reservations.

Article By Phyllis Dieter, Municipal Services Assistant, 782-0008 or pdieter@morgan-bill.ca.gov

Why play in the sand when our jungle gym is in the water?

MORGAN HILL
AQUATICS CENTER
Be Cool...Get Fit...
Play...Have Fun!!!!



Be a part of your facility, season passes on sale beginning April 1st with class registrations beginning April 24th at the Community and Cultural Center.

Opening Summer of 2004!!!



9t's Time For Recycle Days!



THE C9TU of Morgan Hill and South Valley Disposal and Recycling are pleased to present our Spring "Recycle Days" event. On Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17, Morgan Hill residents have an opportunity to recycle household items that aren't accepted in the curbside recycling program.

During Recycle Days, City residents will be able to drop off a variety of recyclable items at the San Martin Transfer Station free of charge. Don't throw it away - recycle it!

Do your part to contribute to our City's efforts to divert 50% of our waste material from the landfills. The transfer station is located at 14070 Llagas Avenue in San Martin, and is open from 8 to 4:30 for the event.

What Can 9 Bring To Recycle Days?

- Untreated, unfinished, and unpainted wood
- Metal appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, and hot water heaters. There will be a \$22 charge for certification of Freon removal from appliances that contain or at one time contained Freon.
- Scrap metal: This includes bicycles, metal lawn mowers (fuel & oil removed), or any item that contains over 50% metal.

Maxus Technology will be on-site to collect the following electronic devices for a nominal fee:

- Televisions: There will be a \$15.00 recycling fee collected for each television. Cash only; no checks or credit cards accepted. Televisions with broken or cracked glass will not be accepted.
- Computer Equipment: There will be a \$10.00 recycling fee collected for each monitor. Cash only; no checks or credit cards accepted. Monitors with broken or cracked glass will not be accepted.
- Small household electronics: Stereos, VCR's, DVD players, telephones, alarm clocks, fax machines, copiers, video game systems, etc.



What Can't 9 Bring?

Anything not listed above. Some examples would be:

- Treated, Painted or Compressed Wood, Plywood, or Particle Board.
- Trees, tree stumps, or yard waste.
- Microwave ovens.
- Plastics such as toys, lawn furniture, water softeners, vacuum cleaners, fans, pools, etc.
- Pressurized tanks (Propane, Helium, etc.) or fuel tanks.
- Household hazardous waste. If you have hazardous waste, call the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 299-7300.

How Do 9 Participate?

- You must reside within the City limits.
- Your garbage account must be current (no past due balance).
- Be prepared to show your driver's license.
- Event is for residential customers only. No business recyclables accepted.
- Event staff will have a list of customers printed to verify residence.

What Else Do 9 Need To Know?

If you bring in more than one material, please have them separated in your vehicle. You will need to drive to several areas at the transfer station to drop off recyclables in the appropriate areas. Commingled material may be charged as garbage unless it is separated.

It is impossible to list all unacceptable items! Recycle Days is ONLY for materials listed above which are properly separated and sorted. Residents bringing other materials will be charged for disposal at the normal transfer station rates. Loads are inspected and the Transfer Station re-

serves the right to refuse items that are not accepted by their recycling contractors.

For more information, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or environ@morgan-hill.ca.gov .

Article by Andi Borowski, 779-7247 or andib@morgan-hill.ca.gov



AVOID THE BITE

THE WEST Nile virus will soon be causing health problems in the Bay Area. Over 200 Americans died from the virus in 2003, while nearly 10,000 were stricken. When dealing with West Nile virus, prevention is your best bet. Fighting mosquito bites reduces your risk of getting this disease, along with others that mosquitoes can carry. Take the common sense steps below to reduce your risk, and you'll:

- avoid bites and illness;
- clean out the mosquitoes from the places where you work and play;
- help your community control the disease.

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent Containing DEET (Look for: N,N-diethylmeta-toluamide) to exposed skin when you go outdoors. Even a short time outdoors can be long enough to get a mosquito bite.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites

When possible, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with repellent containing permethrin or DEET will give extra protection. Don't apply repellents containing permethrin directly to skin. Do not spray repellent containing DEET on the skin under your clothing.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours

The hours from dusk to dawn are peak mosquito biting times for many species of mosquitoes. Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing during evening and early morning — or consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home:

DRAIN STANDING WATER

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by getting rid of items that hold water.

INSTALL OR REPAIR SCREENS

Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having well-fitting screens on both windows and doors. Offer to help neighbors whose screens might be in need of repair.

Help Your Community Report Dead Birds to Local Authorities

Dead birds may be a sign that West Nile virus is circulating between birds and the mosquitoes in an area. Over 130 species of birds are known to have been infected with West Nile virus, though not all infected birds will die. It's important to remember that birds die from many other causes besides West Nile virus. If you find a bird that has recently died, call 792-5010.

Mosquito Control Programs

Contact the Santa Clara County Vector Control District at 792-5010 or 800-314-2427 if you are experiencing problems with mosquitos.

CLEAN UP

Mosquito breeding sites can be everywhere. Neighborhood clean up days can be organized by civic or youth organizations to pick up containers from vacant lots and parks, and to encourage people to keep their yards free of standing water. Mosquitoes don't care about fences, so it's important to control breeding sites anywhere in the neighborhood.

SIDEWALK PLANNED FOR MONTEREY UNDERPASS

Part of the City planning effort is to look for opportunities to make it easier for traffic - whether vehicle, pedestrian or bicycle - to safely and conveniently traverse the community. The Madrone Underpass - located on Monterey Highway at the north end of town, just south of Cochrane Boulevard - will soon sport a paved walkway. The photo renderings show the underpass as it currently exists, and what it will look like once a sidewalk is installed on the east side. According to Public Works project manager, Larry Versaw, most of the project cost (approximately 85%) will be paid for by a combination of State and Federal grants. The sidewalk, along with a new retaining wall and new lighting, will be ready for use in August 2004.



MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

| CHAMILLIA | IROOKAMMINO |
|---|---|
| City Council Meetings Regular Session: | 4/04 7PM Live 4/08 Noon Replay 4/10 8PM Replay 4/11 Noon Replay |
| Regular Session: | 4/02 7PM Live 4/22 Noon Replay 4/24 8PM Replay 4/25 Noon Replay |
| Regular Session: | 4/28 7PM Live 4/29 Noon Replay 5/017 8PM Replay 5/02 Noon Replay |
| Planning Commission Meetings Regular Session: | 4/13 7PM Live 4/14 Noon Replay 4/17 Noon Replay 4/18 8PM Replay |
| Regular Session: | 4/27 7PM Live 4/28 Noon Replay 5/01 Noon Replay 5/02 8PM Replay |
| Building Safer Communities | 9:00AM & 4:30PM Daily 7PM Monday & Friday |
| The Old Morgan Hill Elementary School Memories | 10:30AM & 6:00PM Daily 8:30PM Friday |
| FUGITIVE WATCH THE BAY AREA'S MOST WANTED | 11:30AM & 7:00PM Daily 9:30PM Friday |

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS • APRIL 4TH

Set your clock ahead one-hour and check your smoke detector batteries.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP • APRIL 10TH

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, from 10AM-12PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 918-4640.



SILICON VALLEY OPEN STUDIOS • APRIL 16TH - MAY 7TH

The walls of the Community and Cultural Center will come alive with fabulous artwork from a wide variety of local artists. The Artist's Reception will be April 16th from 6-8 PM. Refreshments will be served.

ART & SCIENCE FAIR • APRIL 22ND

Draw a poster, create an experiment - it's fun! Join us at the Community & Cultural Center at 3PM-6PM for a public reception. Any Morgan Hill Student can enter. Deadline for Intent-To-Enter forms has been extended to April 16th so get those entries in now! For more information, call 842-2275 or visit www.morgan-hill.ca.gov.

OPEN STUDIOS EXHIBITION • MAY 1ST - MAY 2ND

Come see a variety of artwork from over a dozen of the South Valley's top artists at the Community and Cultural Center. This is an opportunity to connect directly with many local artists in one location. It is an especially wonderful opportunity to introducing children to the world of visual expression and parents are encouraged to bring the entire family.

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

| Mayor Dennis Kennedy | 779-7259 |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Mayor Pro Tempore Greg Sellers | 778-2370 |
| Councilmember Larry Carr | 779-9622 |
| Councilmember Hedy L. Chang | 778-0511 |
| Councilmember Steve Tate | 779-6992 |
| City Clerk Irma Torrez | 779-7259 |
| City Treasurer Michael Roorda | 778-3653 |

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager J. Edward Tewes
City Attorney Helene L. Leichter
Assistant To The City Manager Melissa Stevenson Dile
Assistant To The City Manager Anthony Eulo

Business Assistance/Housing Services Director *Garrett Toy* Community Development Director *David Bischoff*

Council Services and Records Manager Irma Torrez

Finance Director Jack Dilles

Human Resources Director Mary Kaye Fisher

Interim Police Chief Bruce Cumming Public Works Director Jim Ashcraft

Recreation and Community Services Manager Julie Spier

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

| Animal Control | 776-7300 |
|--|----------|
| Building Inspection | 779-7241 |
| Business Assist. & Housing Services | 776-7373 |
| City Clerk | 779-7259 |
| City Manager | 779-7271 |
| Community & Cultural Center | 782-0008 |
| Emergency Services/Disaster Preparedness | 776-7310 |
| Environmental Programs | 779-7247 |
| Finance | 779-7237 |
| Fire Department (County Fire) | 378-4010 |
| Job Hotline | 779-7276 |
| Planning: Land Use / Zoning | 779-7247 |
| Police Administration | 776-7315 |
| Public Works | 776-7337 |
| Recreation & Community Services | 782-0008 |
| Water | 779-7221 |
| Volunteer Programs | 779-7278 |
| City Hall Fax Number | 779-3117 |
| | |

City Website: http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

CITY VISIONS
CITY OF MORGAN HILL
17555 PEAK AVENUE
MORGAN HILL, CA 95037

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MORGAN HILL, CA
PERMIT NO. 20

TO: MORGAN HILL RESIDENT